

## **FIREARMS QUALIFICATION & TRAINING -- SHOTGUN**

**9454**

(No.26 June 2016)

### **QUALIFICATION**

Shotgun qualification courses are intended to test the proficiency of CAL FIRE peace officers in the handling, reloading and shooting of the shotgun to provide for the safety of the public and CAL FIRE personnel. The firearms instructor having charge of the range will have the option to choose the qualification course desired and is encouraged to rotate approved courses from one qualification day to the next.

Qualification shall be documented upon the Individual Firearms Qualification Record.

CAL FIRE peace officers shall qualify with the shotgun twice per year, with one qualification occurring between January 1 – June 30 and another occurring between July 1 – December 31. At least one qualification shall be a low light qualification.

### **TRAINING**

Shotgun training is used to develop officer skill and proficiency with the shotgun, coupled with the various handgun(s) and handgun retention systems they have been issued or intend to use. Qualification courses can be used as training; however, the firearms instructor having charge of the range may develop alternative courses to assist in developing necessary skills.

CAL FIRE peace officers shall attend and participate in shotgun training twice per year.

Range days shall be scheduled at least once each quarter:

January 1 - March 31

April 1 - June 30

July 1 - September 30

October 1 - December 31

Range days may be scheduled on a more frequent basis at the discretion of the firearms instructor designated by the Unit, Region, Academy or Law Enforcement Program. Monthly range days are recommended to facilitate qualifications and shotgun training. Officers are encouraged to attend as many range days as possible to improve upon their handling, reloading and shooting skills.

## **RANGE SAFETY**

**9454.1**

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All persons participating in shotgun training and qualification shooting, and within 50 yards of a firing point, shall wear hearing protection and wear a brimmed or baseball style cap. This includes the firearms instructor(s), students/officers, and spectators.

All persons participating in shotgun training and qualification shooting present upon the range shall wear body armor consistent with Handbook Section 9457.1

All shooters shall wear eye protection.

The firearms instructor(s) will conduct a range safety briefing (documented upon an IIPP6).

The firearms instructor(s) will conduct an equipment and safety check prior to conducting any live firing. The officer will, on command, correctly conduct a safety check of the shotgun. The safety check will consist of the following while pointing the weapon down range:

1. Action-open, safety on.
2. Check for ammunition (rounds) in chamber and magazine.
3. Check barrel and breech for obstruction.
4. Check action bar-lock.
5. Check safety.
6. Check firing mechanism.

## **SHOTGUN QUALIFICATION COURSES**

**9454.2**

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The course fired for official score shall consist of one of the courses outlined below.

All qualifications and training shall be conducted with new factory loaded service ammunition.

Weapon loading must be from the location where ammunition is normally carried.

B27/B21 type targets or equivalents shall be utilized.

All qualification courses can be used for low light shooting. "Low light" is defined as subdued light with target still identifiable to the shooter. Use of a weapon mounted light during the firing sequence is optional.

The firearms instructor having charge of the range may choose to change the sequence of fire within approved courses. The firearms instructor may also choose to change the firing position (standing, kneeling, prone) or add additional targets for each shooter.

## **QUALIFICATION COURSE 'A'**

**9454.2.1**

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A total of 15 rounds (2 rifled slugs & 13 00 buckshot) will be required for this course.

### **50 YARD LINE – Total 2 Rounds (rifled slug) – 10 Seconds**

With safety on, load 2 rifled slug rounds, and come to ready gun position. Upon command, fire one round at the target, then drop to the kneeling position and fire one round kneeling at the target. Return weapon to condition of action open, safety on.

### **25 YARD LINE -- 4 Rounds (00 buckshot) -- 30 Seconds**

With the action open and safety on, come to the ready gun position. Upon command, combat load 4 rounds (one in the chamber and three in the magazine), disengage the safety and fire all 4 rounds at the target. Return weapon to condition of action open and safety on.

### **15 YARD LINE -- 4 Rounds (00 buckshot) -- 20 Seconds**

With the action open, safety on, come to the ready gun position. Upon command, combat load 4 rounds (one in the chamber and three in the magazine), disengage the safety and fire all 4 rounds at the target. Return weapon to condition of action open, safety on.

### **10 YARD LINE -- 2 Rounds (00 buckshot) -- 15 Seconds**

With the action open and safety on, come to the ready gun position. Upon command, combat load 5 rounds (one in the chamber, four in the magazine), disengage the safety and fire 2 rounds at the target. Cover the target and engage the safety.

On command, administratively unload the remaining 3 rounds with action open and safety on. 1 of the 3 remaining rounds must be found in the chamber or the shooter is disqualified.

## **QUALIFICATION COURSE 'B'**

**9454.2.2**

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Shotguns shall begin "patrol ready" (action closed, safety on, magazines and side saddles loaded to capacity). All reloading will be done during the sequences unless the firearms instructor directs differently.

### **25 YARD LINE – Total 2 Rounds -- 10 Seconds**

Upon command, fire one round at the target, then drop to the kneeling position and fire one round kneeling at the target. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

### **15 YARD LINE – Total 4 Rounds -- 10 Seconds**

Upon command, fire 4 rounds at the target, reloading as necessary. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

### **10 YARD LINE – Total 4 Rounds -- 10 Seconds**

Upon command, fire 4 rounds at the target. When finished, engage the safety, stand and cover the target.

On command, administratively unload the remaining rounds with action open, safety on.

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5 points are assigned to slug rounds.

1 point is assigned to each pellet within a 00 Buck round.

A hit is defined as anything in the scoring area of the target. Officers shall achieve a total score of 70% to qualify based on the number of points hit out of the total point value of rounds fired.

Example 1: Qualification Course 'A', assuming 9-shot, 00 Buck rounds, the total possible score would be 100 (i.e.  $(5*2)+(9*10)=100$ ). 70 scored hits are required.

Example 2: Qualification Course 'B", assuming all slug rounds were utilized, the total possible score would be 50, (i.e.  $5 \times 10 = 50$ ). 7 scored hits are required.

**Total Score Possible**

# Slugs Fired	# 00 Buck Shot Fired							9 Pellet			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0											90
1									86		
2								82		100	
3							78				
4						74					
5					70						
6				66							
7			62								
8		58									
9	54										
10	50										

**Total Score Possible**

# Slugs Fired	# 00 Buck Shot Fired							12 Pellet			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0											120
1									113		
2								106		130	
3							99				
4						92					
5					85						
6				78							
7			71								
8		64									
9	57										
10	50										

A Course Total Score Possible
 B Course Total Scores Possible

**Minimum Score Required**

# Slugs Fired	# 00 Buck Shot Required							9 Pellet			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0											63
1									60		
2								57		70	
3							55				
4						52					
5					49						
6				46							
7			43								
8		41									
9	38										
10	35										

**Minimum Score Required**

# Slugs Fired	# 00 Buck Shot Required							12 Pellet			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0											84
1									79		
2								74		97	
3							69				
4						64					
5					60						
6				55							
7			50								
8		45									
9	40										
10	35										

A Course Minimum Score Required
 B Course Minimum Score Required

## **FAILURE TO QUALIFY DURING QUALIFICATIONS**

**9454.3**

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If the officer fails to qualify, the officer must promptly re-test. Upon the second failure, the officer must go through a retraining period conducted by the firearms instructor. Re-qualification, following retraining will not be conducted on the day of the two previous failures and the officer will not carry the shotgun, other than for retraining purposes, until they have re-qualified.

The firearms instructor will give written notice to all officers that fail the qualification course. Officers shall provide a copy of the written notice to their respective supervisor, notifying them of their inability to carry the shotgun, other than for retraining purposes, until they have re-qualified.

## **FAILURE TO MAINTAIN QUALIFICATIONS**

**9454.3.1**

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Officers who fail to maintain qualifications during a qualification period will be notified in writing by their Unit or Staff Chief. Officers at the rank of Unit or Staff Chief and above who fail to qualify, will be notified in writing by their immediate supervisor. The officer will not carry their weapon, other than for retraining purposes, until they have qualified (See Failure to Maintain Qualifications Memo). Copies of the notice will be provided to the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, Region Law Enforcement Coordinator or Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement, depending on the officer's assigned location.

Unit and Staff Chiefs are responsible for ensuring that all peace officers assigned to their Unit/Program maintain qualifications. Region Chiefs and Deputy Directors are responsible for ensuring all peace officers at and above the rank of Unit or Staff Chief, assigned to their Regions/Programs, maintain qualifications. Failure to maintain qualifications will result in appropriate administrative action being taken against the officer.

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